



TRIP IDEAS

BC GOLF COURSES

British Columbia's stunning landscapes are ideal for world-class golf courses. Head to the Thompson Okanagan and play scenic courses that swerve through vineyards. After golf, tour a vineyard and enjoy a beachside BBQ. Or journey to the majestic Kootenay Rockies and play some of the finest mountain courses in the world. Here is a look at some of the province's most popular places to play.

For more great Trip Ideas visit HelloBC.com

Bear Mountain Golf Resort

Located just 20 minutes from Victoria's Inner Harbour, Bear Mountain boasts two Jack-Nicklaus-designed courses. Both courses – the original Mountain Course and the Valley Course – feature fairways that parade through rugged terrain at the base of Mount Finlayson. Enjoy beautiful views, impeccable playing conditions and luxurious course-side accommodation at the Westin Bear Mountain Golf Resort & Spa. After golf, reserve a table at Panache and slice through a 10 oz New York strip loin steak with Qualicum Beach scallops.

Westwood Plateau Golf Club

Perched on Eagle Mountain high above Coquitlam, Westwood Plateau boasts a Michael-Hurdzan-designed golf course, a contemporary 3,250-sq-m/35,000-sq-ft clubhouse and exceptional dining. Play holes that careen down fall lines with greens backdropped by snow-capped peaks. Westwood Plateau was recently awarded a 4.5-star rating by Golf Digest, one of just a handful of courses in the country to hit that mark. After a game, hunker down for a nacho feast at Rogues Bar and Grill.

There are a number of nearby hotels to choose from. The Hilton Vancouver Metrotown in nearby Burnaby is a good choice; it's just steps away from the the SkyTrain, a rapid transit system that provides easy access to downtown Vancouver.

Big Sky Golf Club

The peaceful Pemberton Valley is home to the Big Sky Golf Club, one of four outstanding courses near Whistler. Designed by renowned architect Bob Cupp, Big Sky features bentgrass fairways and exquisitely contoured green sites. The 7,001-yard course is a joy to walk, as there are only a few small inclines, and distances between greens and tees are minimal. For a memorable post-round experience, chill out on Fescue's patio and enjoy baby back ribs with a local pint. After dinner retire to the cozy Pemberton Valley Lodge.

Predator Ridge Golf Resort

One of the Okanagan's flagship resorts, Predator Ridge is home to two championship courses that are regarded by SCOREGOLF Magazine as "must-plays" in the Thompson Okanagan region. The new Doug-Carrick-designed Ridge Course dips and dives along a bluff overlooking Okanagan Lake. The original Predator Course, a Les Furber creation, meanders through grass-capped hills. After a 36-hole day of spectacular golf,

relax in course-side accommodation at The Lodge, and sit down to a relaxing dining experience at Range.

Tobiano

Opened in 2007 – and awarded "Canada's Best New Course" by Golf Digest in 2008 – the golf experience at Tobiano has a serious "wow" factor. Every hole on the course features panoramic lake and mountain views. Negotiate huge ravines, greens that appear suspended above the lake and daring holes that dart through cliff-lined coulees.

After a game, enjoy a meal at the popular Clubhouse restaurant (the seared salmon is an excellent choice). Linger on the patio to watch the sunset over the lake, then retire to a nearby hotel like the South Thompson Inn Guest Ranch & Conference Centre. It's located a short drive east of Kamloops, next to the South Thompson River.

Greywolf Golf Course

Located in the Kootenay Rockies region, high in the alpine at Panorama Mountain Village near Invermere, Greywolf is heralded as one of the world's great mountain courses. In fact, Golf Digest ranks Greywolf one of the "Top 100 Courses in the World Outside of the United States." Enjoy breathtaking cliffside holes and fairways alongside glacier-fed creeks. Unquestionably, Greywolf is one of the most dramatic and exciting layouts in North America.

After finishing up a round, find a comfortable spot at Carrick's Restaurant and enjoy the feature pasta of the day. For accommodation, reserve a condo in the Panorama Springs Lodge and wake up to a mountain view.

Golden Golf Club

The Golden Golf Club is a special place to play. This quiet, laid-back club with a wilderness setting epitomizes what British Columbia golf is all about. Enjoy a friendly atmosphere and a gently rolling, scenic course that has just the right amount of challenge.

After finishing up with a risk/reward par 5, find a spot on the spacious patio and enjoy the mountain views and a juicy burger with fries. Or, for fine dining, head into town and try the crab-filled chicken supreme at The Island.

Golden also has a number of great bed and breakfasts. Try the charming Kicking Horse Canyon B&B, located five minutes from town overlooking the Columbia Valley and the Purcell Mountains.